SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. XI June 6, 1949 Number 11

PARKS HIT BY ECONOMY

From the Bakersfield Californian comes this warning editorial, which we quote in part:

The national parks will be crowded this year, as they have been crowded since the war each summer, but they will not be able to provide the tourists with the services and accomodations, which by all standards, they should be able to do.

Each year, although attendance in the national parks and forests has grown, and more and more citizens have been turning to these great areas for recreation, Congress has allowed less and less money to keep them up.

The situation has grown more serious each year. It is difficult to convince eastern and middlewestern congressmen who form the dominant bloc on the House appropriations committee, that the citizens who pay taxes and visit the parks and forests are entitled to something for their money.

Superintendent Carl Russell of Yosemite National Park, has described the situation there. The entire matter has been aggravated by the policy of cutting down on national park appropriations. For eight years deterioration has progressed, and little has been done toward repair and rehabilitation because of lack of funds.

The situation is much the same in all national parks, and visitors this year should not complain when they find their vacations somewhat marred by inadequate camping and sanitary facilities and depleted educational material. They should not carry their voice to the director of the park and the employees thereof. They should let their congressmen know about it. The park service can't do without money, and the congressmen have been slow about allowing them this important thing.

THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain to most people in the SF Bay Chapter means Mount Tamalpais, rather than any other nearby peak, and although it has suffered from a certain amount of development, it still retains much of its original charm as experienced by this writer over thirty years ago.

Business connected with the annual Mountain Play this past May gave me the opportunity, after Play duties were over, of taking a saunter in the company of Jim Roof, Forester of the Tilden Regional Park, down to Laurel Dell by the regular trail, along the creek, inspecting enroute such wonders as a grand tiger lily stand which we have watched for years (but seldom have seen in flower, since the deer usually beat us to them.) The dogwood, a little past its peak bloom, was still worth a special visit, and we marvelled all the way down at the dense growth of yew and Douglas fir which fringed the forest of the west flank of the canyon.

Privately we were satisfied that this was still a part of Marin Municipal Water District, as that status seemed to assure the least danger of overdevelopment which sometimes occurs when a favorite wild region is officially established as a park.

However, one wonders what the future will bring to this region which contains so much concentrated outdoor beauty and pleasant untouched recreational spots. It does seem its preservation is worth some special thought, but after our experience on some other local conservation movements, let's make haste slowly--at least it has suffered little damage in the hands of the Marin Municipal Water District; we are not even sure it could be safer in any other hands. Perhaps time alone will tell.

-- A. H. Blake

SIERRA CLUB YODELER
A semi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to: Yodeleditor, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Subscription: $1.00 per year (20 issues)

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Next Deadline --
Monday, June 20, 1949, 6 PM

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SUMMER CUSTODIANS WANTED

LeConte Lodge - Yosemite Valley.
A man or woman is needed as custodian for LeConte Lodge this summer. Principal duties consist of dispensing information on Sierra Club activities--hiking, mountaineering, conservation, etc.

Shasta Alpine Lodge - Mount Shasta.
A man or couple needed here from late June to early September.

For full information on either opening, please call Larry Burnley, 1608 Posen Ave., Berkeley. LAndscape 6-9326, eves.

HIMALAYAS TO BE VISITED AGAIN

The Government of India Information Services has announced in its leaflet that there will be two expeditions to the Himalayas this summer.

A British expedition under Major H. W. Tilman will explore the Langtan Himal range of mountains, 40 miles north of Kathmandu (Nepal), part of a 500-mile stretch of the Himalayas on the Nepal-Tibet border. A Swiss party of seven mountaineers and scientists will explore the peaks of the Kanchenjunga range.

CONTRA COSTA INVITES US

It will be a Scandinavian Midsummer Eve affair, June 25 at Yosemite Hall, 120 Page St., San Francisco. Featuring Smorgasbord at 7:30 PM for $1.50, plus dancing ballroom and folk tunes to Sam Stern's Rhythm Boys for an additional $1.25. Everyone's welcome. Contra Costa Hills Club.

YODELEARS HEAR--

--of the marriage of Margarette("Midge") Fawcett and John Coughlin, in Van Nuys on May 7. They hope to settle in northern California.

--and that of Harriet McArthur and George Ashbridge III, on May 27, in Portland, Oregon. Their address is 1514 Southwest Tenth Avenue, Portland.

--that RCS member Gene Hammel, a junior (majoring in Anthropology) at UC, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic honor society.

--from Dorothy Malloch in Guam. She writes, "There are a few rocks to climb here but most of them are off limits. I just got back from a trip to Saipan and Iwo Jima. For nature in the raw there is nothing like the latter. Even vegetation fights the place." She expects to be back in the U.S. in about a year.

--that Cedric Wright has an exhibit of photographs at the Centennial Gallery in the Berkeley Public Library. These are on exhibit until June 25--days and hours different each week. ("A sure way to have no one there", says Cedric!)

--that Robert Craig, Longmire, Washington, wants the Sierra Club to know that he and two others will provide guide service at Mount Rainier (Paradise Valley) and a summer ski school. Also they will guide parties planning trips in other parts of Washington.

--that Yodeleditor Vivian and Arteditor John Schagen are on a northern jaunt in Washington--John on active duty at Fort Lewis, and Vivian on inactive duty nearby. They return just in time to escape getting out this issue of the Yodeler.

--of the return of Roy Pike to San Francisco, after four months in Mexico.

PARSONS LODGE OPEN FOR THE SUMMER

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hyde, custodians at Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows for the summer, are ready to welcome visitors. Nearby is the Soda Springs camping ground, a good base for exploring the Tuolumne Meadows area. The Hydes will be glad to see you have a good time whether you're just passing through the Meadows or staying for a longer visit.

Those who have camped in the Meadows know how many interesting things there are to do in this area--climbing, hiking, fishing or just loafing.

THEY CAME, THEY SAWED

A dozen Sierrans wielded sledges, shovels, saws and slide-rules at Clair Tappaan Lodge over the Memorial Day week end, when the first work party of the season took place under the direction of Jim Clifford, Chairman of the Lodge Committee. Certain alterations are necessary to comply with req uirements of the State Housing Code, as well as to render present facilities more comfortable.

This first work party started on the job of lowering the floor in the basement around the incinerator to make room for the new steam plant for heating the lodge. This area will then be fireproofed into a single room which will contain all combustion units. Another fire preventive measure begun was the replacing of the bare iron smokestack above the fireplace with an approved masonry chimney.

These are but two of the projects that are necessary at the lodge. Others on this year's agenda include plans for electrical rewiring of the lodge, building new entrances, stairwells from the ground floor level to and including the third floor, remodeling the cubicles, and new men's and women's toilets. In addition, a supplementary pipeline to assure adequate water supply is contemplated.

It is further planned that work will continue on Benson Hut on Mt. Anderson.

Due to the magnitude of these plans, the call is out for "All Hands!" Work parties will be in operation every week end during the summer, and anyone who can give a helping hand will be welcomed. However, all aspirants must contact either Jim Garrett (GR 4-7244) or Jim Clifford (HI 4-6081) to arrange for assignments and transportation.

The rewards for participation in this work are many. For those unfamiliar with work party operations, we enumerate the following: establishment of a priority for reservations during ski season; free lodging and food (and I might add WHAT FOOD!); free transportation; credit toward lodging if you provide transportation for others; the opportunity of enjoying healthful work in God's country; and a guaranteed night's deep sleep.

Those members skilled in carpentry, plumbing, masonry, and allied trades are particularly invited, although anyone who can supply only brawn will certainly be welcome.

It is possible that all this activity is going to be somewhat discommoding to the paying summer guests of the lodge; however, it is hoped that the usual activities will be carried on. Certainly this work will not affect the fishing, hiking, swimming and mountain climbing.

--Jim Mulholland

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AUDUBON NATURE CAMP

The National Audubon Society will again hold their nature camp for adult leaders at the Sugar Bowl Lodge on Donner Summit. There will be five 2-week sessions beginning June 19th. The participants will study the bird, plant and animal life of the High Sierra country. Address inquiries to: Mrs. Ethel Richardson, 887 Indian Rock Ave.,Berkeley, 7; LAndscape 4-4270.

OUTING COMMITTEE PREVIEWS 1949 TRIPS

Sierrans who plan to avail themselves of one of the Outing Committee's 1949 trips were treated to a preview of all the jaunts on May 18 at Everett Junior High.

Following a few brief remarks by our new President, Lewis Clark, regarding conservation issues, Dick Leonard, Chairman of the Outing Committee, introduced the leader of each trip who in turn presented details regarding food, physical requirements, equipment and other items of information. One of the most popular features of the program was a complete display of outing equipment from personal effects to tents, including boots, sleeping bags, knapsacks, packboards, ponchos, etc., assembled and arranged by Charlotte Mauk.

A "preview within the preview" was the announcement by the Committee that it is planning, for the first time since 1937, an out-of-state trip to the northern part of Glacier National Park in 1950. It's to be scouted by a group of the out-of-state knapsackers after their Grand Teton trip this summer.

The foregoing was the Educational Committee's last program until after the vacation season. Be sure and make calendar entries and watch your Schedule and Yodeler for details of coming programs.

-- R.D.

CORRECTION ON GUALALA RIVER TRIP

Driving directions should read..... turn left at Yorkville on dirt road marked 'Ornbaum Springs and Anchor Bay'.

THE SOCIAL CLIMBER

Yosemite Offers Liquid Refreshment

As per custom, the Rock Climbing Section migrated en masse to Yosemite Valley for their annual Memorial Day outing, and per custom, the weather turned traitor deluging us with the usual rain and sleet. But in spite of the hostilities of the elements, everyone enjoyed himself and a good number of climbs was made.

Saturday morning the customary first day confusion was increased by the search for qualified climbers willing to lead the others. As the sun rose higher, the press of common tourists (smile when you say that!) became so great that recalcitrant ones settled their differences.

Larry Taylor with Delancey Smith and Bill Dunmire reached the top of the lower Brother. A later start prevented Bob Swift, Wes Nelson and Ray deSaussure from finishing the climb.

Oscar Cook, Millie Jentsch, Vernon Bengal and Bonnie Cushman made Church Tower.

Fritz Lippmann led his crew consisting of Wheaton Smith, Betty McDougall and Al Huber through the talus and up the Arrowhead.

Bill Horsfall with Neil and Joan Smith and Isabella Morrison got up Split Pinnacle.

Robin Hansen, mercilessly driving Sylvia Kershaw all the way and followed by Wallace Degen and Demetra Wilson, climbed Panoramic Cliffs.

Phil Bettler and Al Stiles snoozed below the rope traverse on the Royal Arches while they waited for Floyd Burnette and Don Evers to join them. From there, they rappeled down.

On Sunday, as one of the climbers phrased it, the rain was continuously intermittent. Several staunch parties started out but only "Water Dog Dave Nelson" succeeded in leading his party of Wes, Isabella, Betty and Al to the Lunch Ledge on Washington Column. The less intrepid souls toured various parts of the Valley by foot and car.

Sunday evening there was a stranger in our midst--a jolly looking man with a bar moustache and twinkling blue eyes. Closer inspection revealed that Bill Horsfall, for the first time in the three years that many of us had known him, had shaved his beard. When told he looked ten years younger, he promptly proved it by leaping into the air, clicking his heels and yelling "Whoopee!"

Moses from Mexico and his red flare added color to our campfire.

Monday was still bad, but Phil, Ray, Moses, Bill, Floyd and Bob climbed Church Tower.

Robin, Larry, Don and Fritz leisurely looked over Grizzly Peak, not getting very far.

And so, thus ended Memorial Day, 1949.

--Phil Bettler - Demetra Wilson

Miraloma Offers.....

Roses are red, Violets are blue,
Climbing's no good, and neither are you!

--Jim Wilson

(Who's Jim talking to? --Ed)

NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION

Wildlife Closeups. Interesting movies of wildlife, taken during several of their vacations by Mildred and David Stearns, were the piece de resistance of the May meeting held Friday, May 20. Wild goats on Mt. Diablo, moose, big bears and little bears, all paraded across the screen.

Spring sunshine was bright on Sunday, June 5th, when the NSS hiked to Lake Lagunitas. Those of us who did not melt to a small grease spot on the trip to the lake had an interesting time there. Animal life was plentiful; a three-foot gopher snake sat for his portrait for several photographers. A lively, though small, crayfish put up a battle from the safety of a tin cup, and the mosquitoes, oak moth caterpillars and flies had the situation well in hand. We saw several deer in the late afternoon and early evening.

The newly created lake, Bon Tempe, located just northwest of Lagunitas, is quite large. The shallow arm extending to the Lagunitas-Fairfax road is brushy and will probably be inhabited by birds in the future.

Calendar

June 17 - Evening meeting at 7:30 PM in room 360, Mills Tower. Mr. William Fairbanks, Superintendent of Conservation Education with the State Division of Forestry, will tell us about present forestry problems in California.

Sept. 24 - Birthday Party at the Temescal Clubhouse. Note change in date.

HAIL COLUMBIA!

The scheduled Mother Lode week-end trip May 21-22 in and around Columbia panned out successfully. Two glittering golden days and one silvery starlit night were taken into our mint of memories. Although his name doesn't appear among the seventy signatures in the trip register, the weather man was definitely "with us" all the time.

At campfire on Bill Solari's ranch, in addition to a few Scotch stories by Jim Barbour and excellent tenor solos by Dave Stearns, who also led the group singing, Editor Charles P. Jones of the Sonora Banner gave a comprehensive talk on the history of the region.

On Sunday, Curator Bridewell of the State Historic Park, conducted us through Columbia, "The Gem of the Southern Mines", and showed us the interiors of the Wells Fargo and other historical buildings not usually accessible to the public. Lunch was enjoyed on a sandy beach on the Stanislaus River where an unexpected thrill was provided by two boys in rubber rafts who ran the tumultuous rapids like a couple of Norman Nevills. Some of the group hiked down to the unique natural bridge over Coyote Creek to conclude the pleasurable outing.

--Jim Barbour

GOLD RUSH DAYS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Under the skillful pen and direction of Dan Totheroh, the Mountain Play on May 22 transported its thousands-strong audience back to the days of '49 when men were men and there was a paucity of women to be glad of it in the Mother Lode country.

The little gold-rush town of Rough an' Ready furnished both the play's title and a setting well adapted to the stage at Mountain Theatre. The wooded glens rang to the melodies of "Oh Susanna" and "Sweet Betsey from Pike", and plaid shirts, jeans, sun bonnets, here and there a six-shooter, square-dancing and a real live melodrama furnished as gay and colorful a production as has been seen on the mountain.

Tamalpa furnished her most beautiful weather for the day, and afterward could be heard the remark made every year on the year - -".....the best mountain play yet!"

--R. D.

AÑO NUEVO

The Point Año Nuevo beach party scheduled for June 25 and 26 is a joint trip with the Loma Prieta Chapter and will be under the leadership of Loren Miller of Loma Prieta.

Augmenting driving directions in the Schedule: From the intersection of the Pescadero Road with Coast Highway No. 1, drive south 12.8 miles to a private driveway with a mail box marked "Kent." Drive towards the beach to the end of the dirt road. It will be necessary to carry equipment a short distance from the end of the road to the beach.

Water will be available for washing, but those who are particular can bring drinking water.

If there is sufficient interest, an effort will be made to arrange a back-pack trip for those who prefer the hills to the beach. All who are interested should get in touch with the San Francisco leaders, Marian Beck (TWinoaks 3-1221 days or OLympic 3-0766 evenings) or Bob Howell (SUtter 1-7700, Ext. 2883, days or GRaystone 4-5274 nights).

--Bob Howell

SNOW WHITE TO VISIT MOUNTAIN THEATRE

The Junior Theatre of Marin County is presenting The Players Club of San Francisco in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" on Sunday, June 26, at 2 PM in the Mountain Theatre. The Lorna Talbot version of "Snow White" is being used, and this is said to be particularly delightful and lovely. It will be directed by Reginald Travers, and 200 child dancers will participate.

All are cordially invited to attend. Admission is $1 for adults, 50¢ for children, plus Federal tax.

FOR SALE: Sleeping bag, 9 lbs., used very briefly. Inner lining, 1½ lbs. Pillow, Pocket Roll, Dunnage Bag. Also smooth leather coat, size 38. Contact Nesta Burnay, GRaystone 4-1538 evenings.

WANTED TO RENT: 2-3 bedroom house in or near Berkeley, unfurnished. To $70. Phone FRED TOBY, LOckhaven 9-7670 (anytime).

GUALALA RIVER TRIP leaders suggest an extra pair of shoes for next week end--the going may be wet on Saturday's hike.

ONE MEMORIAL DAY WEEK END

Calaveras Big Trees proved such a popular spot for the three-day week end that upon our arrival we were directed by the ranger to seek other camp sites. Some of the group located at Big Meadows, a beautiful but cold, snow-patched area where numerous streams trickled through exclusive camp sites. Others of us camped at "Glenn Lake," just five miles from the park. Al Glenn can give full information as to the why and wherefore of the christening which took place at this particular spot. There was a baptism too.

Saturday evening we enjoyed folk dancing with the California Alpine Club and appreciated the use of their phonograph. Much of the credit for the success of the dance goes to Dorothea Raoul and Rosemarie Baumann.

We awoke Sunday to find the ground slightly dampened (Only slightly?--Ed.) by a couple of light showers, and the weather remained unsettled all day. Monty Ballou, Loma Prieta, Max Schmidt, Alpine Club, and Dick Monges, Bay Chapter, shared honors in leading the group on a short but beautiful trip into the South Grove, which we have all worked so hard to preserve. Sunday's trip was followed by a lively campfire program conducted and planned by Carol Pulsifer, Tena Catena and Neva Snell, after which there was more folk dancing.

Monday found us eating breakfast under a tarp (Due to slight dampness?--Ed.) and a few rugged individuals followed Monty Ballou into Squaw Hollow. Summed up, we had three swell days.

--Jean Ackerman

CHICAGO MOUNTAINEERS' HOPE RISES

The Chicago Mountaineers, like all other climbing clubs, have dreamed about "Angels" to sponser their trips. Now, though, they feel their problem will soon be solved. They have offered a reward to any woman in the club who will marry a rich man. He doesn't have to be handsome, or interested in climbing--just plain rich will do! As part of the reward they promise to tie in the lucky woman, middle on a rope, and take her up a first ascent. (Let this be a lesson to all Sierra Club women.)

--Demetra Wilson

CONSOLATION HIKE

There were only twenty who needed consolation on the Sunday of the Memorial Day week end; at least, that many started out from Mountain Home for the hike "over" the mountain". The whetherman (the guy who gives us the whether about the weather) did his best to console us--it was nice and cool for the climb, and bright and sunny for the homeward trek down the mountain.

After reaching the top, we practically fell down magnificent Lagunitas Creek to the accompaniment of much moaning by the fair sex over the steepness of our route. We arrived at Lake Lagunitas one minute after one. Larry Armstrong was disappointed--he had planned lunch for one o'clock sharp.

After lunch, we strolled down to Deer Park, where Larry unhappily put on the "shells" of civilization. Everyone seemed not only consoled but definitely happy; it had been a fine trip.

--F. Gerstacker

INTERESTED IN BOOTS?

Take a look at the sample climbing boots designed by Gerry Cunningham of Colorado and manufactured by Chippewa, which are in the club office now, for climbers and hikers to see. Briefly, some of its features are: 1. Lug rubber sole(you know the advantages). 2. Square toe and grooved heel for ski-touring and winter mountaineering. 3. Size 7 weighs only 4 lbs. 4. Price $15, postpaid. Write Gerry, Box 128, Ward, Colorado.

QUETICO-SUPERIOR WILDERNESS

California Alpine Clubbers invite Sierrans to attend a showing on Monday, June 27, of the movie entitled "Wilderness Canoe Country" at the "wind-up" party for the CAC folk dance group. Refreshments are included in the nominal charge of 50¢. The movie starts at 8:00 PM and will be followed by folk dancing. The event will be held at the Park-Presidio Improvement Association Hall, 649 Eighth Avenue, between Balboa and Cabrillo, in San Francisco. The 5, 21, and B lines take you within easy walking distance.

WANTED: Transportation to Tuolumne Meadows any time after July 15th. Notify by mail care of Sierra Club office, Jacob F. Schulz.